

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1-42 are pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claim 42 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 42 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful comments (i.e., to depend from claim 41). Applicant thus requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 12, 13, 16-28, 30, 31, 33-36, 38, 39, 41 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Snelgrove (U.S. '592) in view of Bobde et al. (U.S. '370, hereinafter "Bobde"). Applicant traverses this rejection.

The combination of Snelgrove and Bobde fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. For example, combination of Snelgrove and Bobde fails to teach or suggest "wherein said messages exchanged in respect of the establishment of at least one trust relationship and said messages exchanged in respect of the establishment of a session description are exchanged using the same signaling protocol," as required by independent claim 1 and its dependents. Similar, but not necessarily identical, comments apply to independent claims 7, 9, 12, 27 and 35.

The invention of claim 1 thus requires that the messages exchanged in respect of the establishment of a trust relationship and the messages exchanged in respect of the establishment of a session description *are exchanged using the same signaling protocol*. This claimed feature is supported by, for example, the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3

of the originally-filed specification (in particular, lines 29 to 34 of page 2 and lines 3 to 5 of page 3), which describes extending call signaling and session description protocols of the session set-up phase, and exploiting the “classical” elements of existing call phases for the new purpose of building trust relationships. This claimed feature is supported by, for example, the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8, which describes the concept of re-using existing protocols for session management (call signaling and session description protocols) as the underlying mechanisms for establishing trust relationships between session participants, and page 13, line 20 to page 14, line 9, which relates to a specific example embodiment of the invention in which the signaling protocol used in both message exchanges is a session initiation protocol.

Page 4, lines 4-7 of the Office Action admits that Snelgrove fails to disclose “wherein said messages exchanged in respect of the establishment of at least one trust relationship and said messages exchanged in respect of the establishment of a session description are exchanged using the same signaling protocol,” as required by independent claim 1 and its dependents. Bobde fails to resolve this admitted deficiency of Snelgrove.

The Office Action argues that Bobde discloses combining a mechanism to establish the trust relationship with the SIP signalling operation (Bobde, col. 2, lines 8-12, “*A scheme to integrate a security mechanism, such as Kerberos or NLTM protocol, into the message flow of the SIP signaling operation to allow SIP client and SIP proxy to authenticate each other*”). The Office Action also refers to column 1, lines 62-67 stating that this relates to protecting the integrity of the SIP request by combining the security mechanism with the SIP signalling operation.

As pointed out by the Office Action, Bobde suggests use of the Kerberos or NLTM protocols for mutual authentication between the SIP client and the SIP proxy. However, this does not correspond to establishing a trust relationship of the type defined in claim 1. The trust relationship as defined in claim 1 is a trust relationship between respective participants and is a trust relationship relating to a telecommunications session to be initiated. Further, it is a trust relationship established by the exchange of messages between those participants containing non-repudiable data which is stated to indicate at least one session control function. There is no suggestion in Bobde of the specific trust relationship claimed – i.e., a trust relationship relating to a telecommunications session to be initiated is established, let alone that this is established using non-repudiable data indicating any session control function as claimed. The only non-repudiable data that appears to be exchanged between the respective parties in Bobde is that exchanged in the authentication processes, and this can therefore only be non-repudiable data concerning their respective identities, rather than non-repudiable data relating in any way to session control functions.

Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to apply the teachings from Bobde in order to adapt what is described in Snelgrove and arrive at claim 1.

Claims 3, 14, 15 29 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Snelgrove and Bobde and further in view of Zhang et al. (U.S. '638, hereinafter "Zhang"). Claims 6, 11, 32 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Snelgrove and Bobde and further in view

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of Koskinen et al. (U.S. '165, hereinafter "Koskinen "). Neither Zhang nor Koskinen resolves the above-described deficiencies of the combination of Snelgrove and Bobde.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

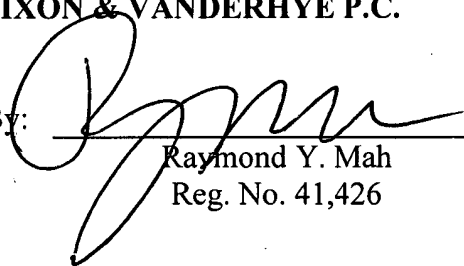
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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